



1645

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**Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

RE: US Ser # 09/854,867

Dear Sir:

The cited US patent application was filed on 5/14/2001, nearly three years ago, however it has not yet been examined. I am one of the inventors of this technology. Upon reviewing information about this patent on the Patent Application Information Retrieval website, I became concerned that our US patent application Ser# 09/854,867 may have been misplaced. The last transaction recorded on the PAIR site occurred on 8-26-2003 and it currently has been assigned to Art Unit 1645. I spoke by telephone with the supervising patent examiner of this unit on 4/15/04 regarding this application. I was informed that, most likely, it would be more appropriate to reassign it to another Art Unit.

I am contacting the USPTO to respectfully request that this reassignment be made and the application be examined expeditiously. Both Dr. Knoll (the other inventor) and I are concerned that further delays in evaluating our application may have an adverse impact on the timeliness and the perceived value of our invention.

Thank you, in advance, for considering my request.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert P. Long

Peter K. Rogan, Ph.D.